

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying the volume of liquid displaced in a pipette, which includes a piston and a shaft and which is intended to aspirate then dispense the volume of liquid, comprising the following steps:

defining a predetermined value for the volume to be aspirated;

measuring at a plurality of times during the aspiration the pressure at two points of the shaft;

calculating by integration from the measured pressure the volume of liquid displaced in the shaft;

verifying if the calculated volume corresponds to the predetermined value; and

generating an indication relating to this verification.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 intended to be applied to a pipette whose piston is driven by an actuator, further comprising the steps of:

calculating the difference between the calculated volume and the predetermined value; and

transmitting a signal to the actuator in order to make it drive the piston such that the volume aspirated corresponds to the predetermined value.

3. (Currently Amended) A verification device for a pipette for aspirating then dispensing a determined volume of liquid, the pipette including a piston and a shaft, wherein the device includes:

a sensor capable of supplying a pressure measurement at two points of the shaft at a plurality of times during the aspiration of liquid; and

a microprocessor programmed to calculate by integration, from said measurements as they vary throughout the aspiration, the volume of liquid aspirated in the shaft, to verify that this volume corresponds to the volume of the desired value and generate an indication relating to this verification; and

means, responding to the microprocessor, for delivering information relating to the indication.

4. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 3, wherein the sensor is further capable of supplying a temperature measurement in the shaft.

5. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 3, wherein the means for delivering information includes a display.

6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 3, wherein the means for delivering information includes an acoustic alarm.

7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 3 wherein the means for delivering information further includes a transceiver capable of making the microprocessor communicate with a control and recording unit.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 4 wherein the means for delivering information includes a transceiver capable of making the microprocessor communicate with a control and recording unit.

9. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 5 wherein the means for delivering information includes a transceiver capable of making the microprocessor communicate with a control and recording unit.

10. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 6 wherein the means for delivering information includes a transceiver capable of making the microprocessor communicate with a control and recording unit.

11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 7, wherein the microprocessor is programmed to store instructions which are sent thereto by the control and recording unit.

12. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 11, wherein the microprocessor is programmed such that the transceiver sends to the control and

recording unit an item of information concerning the difference between the measured volume and the desired value.

13. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 3, intended for a pipette whose piston is driven by an actuator, wherein the microprocessor is programmed to control the actuator such that the aspirated volume corresponds to the desired value.

14. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 3, wherein the device forms a module that can be fitted to an existing pipette.

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 4, wherein the device forms a module that can be fitted to an existing pipette.

16. (Previously Presented) A pipette with a piston for aspirating then dispensing, using a shaft, a determined volume of liquid, wherein the device includes a verification device according to claim 3.

17. (Previously Presented) A pipette with a piston for aspirating then dispensing, using a shaft, a determined volume of liquid, wherein the device includes a verification device according to claim 4.

18. (Previously Presented) A pipette with a piston for aspirating then dispensing, using a shaft, a determined volume of liquid, wherein the device includes a verification device according to claim 7.

19. (Previously Presented) A control and recording unit for managing a plurality of pipettes each fitted with the verification device according to claim 9, wherein the control and recording unit includes a computer and a transceiver capable of making the computer communicate with the transceiver of each of the pipettes.

20. (Previously Presented) A control and recording unit according to claim 19, wherein the computer is programmed such that the following operations are carried out:
sending the protocol of the pipetting operations to be carried out to each pipette;
recording the performance of the pipette; and
recording the operator's performance.

21. (Previously Presented) A control and recording unit according to claim 19, wherein the computer is programmed so as to send the number and volume of deposits to be carried out by each pipette and the accepted tolerances.

22. (Previously Presented) A control and recording unit according to claim 20, wherein the computer is programmed so as to send the number and volume of deposits to be carried out by each pipette and the accepted tolerances.